

346.1004DIV

REMARKS

Claims 15-22 are pending in this application, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/158,752, filed on May 30, 2002.

Applicant first notes that enclosed with the Office Action from the USPTO was a blank Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) wherein the newly cited reference U.S. Patent No. 6,191,174 (Early et al.) was not listed thereon. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) wherein U.S. Patent No. 6,191,174 (Early et al.), as well as any other references that are being cited by the Examiner, is listed thereon.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 15-22 because they depend from any one of canceled claims 1-12. In response, Applicant has amended claim 15, upon which all of claims 16-22 depend, to incorporate the limitations of canceled claim 1, as that claim now presently is pending in parent U.S. Patent Application No. 10/158,752. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner also rejected claims 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,191,174 (Early et al.). According to the Examiner, Early et al. disclose all the steps of the methods claimed in claims 15-22. In response, Applicant notes that, as discussed above, claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of the methanol synthesis reactor system, specifically the methanol synthesis reactor system that was recited in canceled claim 1, as that claim now presently is pending in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/158,752, the parent of this divisional application. By contrast, Early et al. do not disclose that the steps of the claimed method, namely the steps of supplying the synthesis gas mixture to the reactor system, recovering a product gas mixture from the reactor system, supplying material of the product gas mixture to a methanol recovery zone, and recovering from the methanol recovery zone a crude methanol product stream and a vaporous stream, are all performed with regard to a synthesis reactor that comprises a first reactor wherein partial conversion of the synthesis gas to a product gas mixture comprising methanol and un-reacted synthesis gas will occur adiabatically and a second reactor wherein further conversion of the synthesis gas to a product gas mixture comprising methanol will occur, as described in claim 15, wherein the first catalyst and the

346.1004DIV

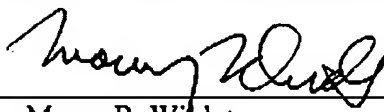
second catalyst do not have a common face when said first and second reactors are zones in a single reactor. Thus, Early et al. do not anticipate claim 15 (or its dependent claims 16-22) of this patent application, and Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of these claims 15-22.

Conclusion

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is requested. If, upon review, the Examiner is unable to issue an immediate Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any outstanding issues and advance the prosecution of the case. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By: 
Morey B. Wydes
Reg. No. 36,968

Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10018
(212) 736-1940